

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact, said energy absorber comprising a blow molded thermoplastic unitary structure having a rearward facing support portion and a crushable forward projecting portion adapted to crush upon the impact, said support portion comprising a flange extending around a periphery of said support portion for attaching said energy absorber to a bumper beam.

2. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 1 wherein said energy absorber has an elongated shape and is adapted for mounting to the forward end of the vehicle for extending longitudinally across the width of the vehicle.

3. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 wherein said energy absorber is adapted for pedestrian leg protection and has a highly efficient crush mode.

4. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 is adapted to reduce forces of impact with legs of a pedestrian.

5. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 wherein the energy absorber is adapted to absorb energy during the impact of said vehicle at low speeds of less than or equal to 5Mph.

6. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 said energy absorber consisting essentially of a single integral unit of blow molded material.

7. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 6 wherein said forwardly projecting portion comprises a plurality of forwardly projecting crushable members.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of crushable members extend outwardly from the support portion, each of said crushable members having a forwardly facing front wall, at least a pair of adjacent crushable members having interconnecting front walls.

10. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 9 wherein said plurality of the crushable members are attached longitudinally across the front of the support portion.

11. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 10 wherein said plurality of crushable members project forwardly and are spaced apart longitudinally across said support portion.

12. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 1 wherein said energy absorber comprises a thermoplastic resin.

13. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 12 wherein said thermoplastic resin comprises polyolefin, a polyester resin, a polycarbonate, or mixtures thereof.

14. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 13 wherein said polyester resin is a polyalkylene terephthalate, a high density polyethylene, a low density polyethylene, a polyamide or mixtures thereof.

15. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 14 wherein said polyester resin is polybutylene terephthalate and said polycarbonate is an aromatic polycarbonate.

16. (currently amended)      An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 10 wherein said energy absorber is interposed between the fascia and the bumper beam to form a vehicle bumper, said vehicle bumper being attachable to the front of the vehicle, said fascia enveloping the energy absorber and the bumper beam such that neither component other than the fascia is visible once attached to the vehicle.